

3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

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This chapter presents the elements of the environment that could be potentially affected by the SR 509: Corridor Completion/I-5/South Access Road Project. Each element includes sections entitled *Studies and Coordination*, which describes the assumptions, evaluation methods, and sources of information; *Affected Environment*, which describes existing conditions; *Environmental Impacts*, which describes the potential impacts of each alternative; *Mitigation Measures*, which describes measures to mitigate impacts, where and when appropriate; and *Construction Activity Impacts and Mitigation*. These latter two sections describe possible measures to avoid or minimize adverse impacts. Impacts are divided into the following categories—long-term operational impacts and short-term construction-related impacts. Secondary (indirect) and cumulative impacts are discussed for all elements in the final section of this chapter.

The material presented in this chapter is based on a series of technical discipline reports prepared by the WSDOT, which are referenced in Appendix B, and incorporated into this FEIS by reference. Copies of these reports are available for review at FHWA and WSDOT.

James Christian, P.E.
Federal Highway Administration
711 South Capitol Way, Suite 501
Olympia, Washington 98501
Telephone (360) 753-9480

John White, P.E.
WA State Dept of Transportation
6431 Corson Avenue South, MS 61
Seattle, Washington 98018
Telephone (206) 768-5680

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